

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

Applicants appreciate that claim 9 is allowable. However, claims 9 is objected and rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hagiwara (JP 2002-195265) in view of Okazaki (JP 05-060127). Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hagiwara in view of Okazaki and in view of Mori et al. (U.S. Pub. 2002/0025089; hereinafter Mori).

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to recite allowable features in claim 9, which is currently cancelled, and overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-4 and 6-7 remain pending in the present application, and reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all the pending claims 1-4 and 6-7 of the present application patently define over the prior art and are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
J.C. PATENTS

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/JIAWEI HUANG/
Jiawei Huang
Registration No. 43,330

4 Venture, Suite 250
Irvine, CA 92618
Tel.: (949) 660-0761
Fax: (949)-660-0809
Email: jcpi@msn.com